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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, let Your peace that passes understanding be felt on Capitol Hill. Remove distracting priorities from the minds of our Senators, leading them to focus on the things that really matter. Take away disturbing doubts, providing them with certitude regarding Your providential power and purpose. Eradicate false ambition, as You make them content to serve You where they are and as they are.

In a special way, guide the supercommittee in its challenging work. And, Lord, as we enter this season of gratitude, make us truly thankful.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1867, the Department of Defense authorization bill.

We expect to receive the conference report to accompany H.R. 2112, the Agriculture, CJS, and Transportation appropriations bill, which also contains the CR, during today's session. The information I have gotten from the House—and it could change—is that it will be late. I spoke to Senator LEVIN earlier today. It appears we will have to be in session to try to work through some of that bill, anyway, tomorrow, so we may not be able to complete the conference report and the continuing resolution today. We will see what develops as the day goes on.

CBO REPORT

Mr. REID. This week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, known as the watchdog of the Senate, confirmed what Democrats have been saying for months—that the so-called Republican jobs plan isn't much of a plan and it wouldn't create any jobs.

The Congressional Budget Office report analyzed different approaches to spurring economic growth and jobs proposed by both parties. Among the top job creators were Democratic proposals

to extend unemployment benefits and cut middle-class taxes. But when the CBO looked at the GOP plan to eliminate safeguards that protect lives, save money, and shield the environment, it concluded that the idea was a flop. The study concluded that the effects of the changes the Republicans propose would be negligible at best and at worst could actually lower economic growth and slow hiring.

Although their plan would have no positive effect on our economy, the Republicans want to gut the safeguards that saved hundreds of thousands of lives just last year alone. Although their plan could potentially slow economic growth, they want to gut the safeguards that save American companies and consumers \$1.3 trillion each year by increasing productivity and reducing medical bills. Nonpartisan experts agree this is not the road to recovery. They also agree with Democrats that putting money back into the pockets of middle-income families and small businesses with tax credits and refunds and extending unemployment benefits is the most efficient way to get Americans working again to turn our economy around. Families who have more money to spend will pump it back into the economy. Businesses that have more money to spend will hire new workers. At a time where we need to conserve every dollar and get the most bang for the buck, these proposals do more with less.

As we continue to discuss ways to combat high unemployment in the coming months, it would behoove my Republican colleagues to remember that not all proposals are created equally. When we consider our next jobs bill in December, my Republican friends will once again face a choice: We can cling to ideological proposals we know won't work or they can join forces with Democrats to pass proposals we know will create jobs. I hope the Republicans prove to be more interested in getting results than in getting their way.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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